

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, at line 15 and ending on page 2, at line 5, as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,960,417 discloses a computer system limited to determining the cost associated with the manufacturing process for a product. The disclosed computer system includes a database computer and a manufacturing cost computer, wherein the computer includes a central processor, a memory and a direct access storage device with tables of data including a product mix table, an equipment table, an overhead table, a direct material table, a direct material standard usage table, and a rework table. The system is arranged to prepare data for use in costing, calculating hourly rates for a part, calculating final costs for a part and determining the cost of parts associated with a product. One limitation associated with the system described in U.S. Patent No. 5,960,417 is that it only determines costs in the specific case of manufacturing.

Kindly replace the paragraph on page 4, at lines 7-14, with the following amended paragraph:

One advantage associated with embodiments of the present invention is that a user of the system, for instance a potential customer intending to purchase bearings, seals and/or equipment incorporating bearings and/or seals or a supplier informing a potential customer of the superiority of specific products, can relatively easily and swiftly obtain information relating to cost savings and increased earnings

associated with the use of specific bearings, seals and/or equipment incorporating bearings and/or seals as compared to the use of competing bearings, seals and/or equipment incorporating bearings and/or seals.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15 and ending on page 5, at line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method for presenting information concerning the economic improvement or advantage associated with the use of specific products related to bearings and/or seals as compared to the use of other similar products. The method involves receiving plant specific data from an inputting means, calculating through use of the product specific data and the received plant specific data, a total economic improvement or advantage based on repair cost savings and at least one of increased productivity earnings and energy cost savings, and presenting the total economic improvement or advantage using on a presentation means.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, at lines 3-15, with the following amended paragraph:

The processor 2 is arranged to receive plant specific data from the inputting means 4 for processing by the processor 2. Upon receiving this information, the processor 2 is adapted to calculate a total economic improvement or advantage

(e.g., monetary savings) based on repair cost savings as well as increased productivity earnings and/or energy cost savings. It is thus envisioned with embodiments of the present invention that all three components of the total economic improvement or advantage need not necessarily be calculated. The calculations are based on the product specific data contained in the memory unit 3 and the plant specific data received from the inputting means 4. It is envisioned that embodiments of the present invention can also involve entering some product specific data using the inputting means 4. Also, it is possible that some plant specific data may be contained in the memory unit 3. The processor 2 is arranged to present the total economic improvement at the presentation means 5.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, at line 16 and ending on page 10, at line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

An example of an interface 10 between the user and the computer system 1 is presented in Fig 2. The interface 10 is presented at the presentation means 5 between the user and the computer system 1. The top of the interface is provided with a set of pointers 11 that can be clicked or otherwise actuated. These pointers 11 are related to a variety of technical fields involving the use of bearings and/or seals (e.g., automotive, electric motors, food, pulp and paper, steel, aggregate, conveyors, fan and blower, etc.). Clicking on one of the pointers 11 leads the user to an interface 10 where it is possible to estimate cost savings based on plant specific data and product specific data. In the preferred embodiment, the cost savings are set forth over the period of a year.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, at lines 5-14, with the following amended paragraph:

In the illustrated embodiment, the repair cost savings are set forth based on the number of rotating machines in the plant, the machine failure per unit of time, the increase in machine life associated with alignment (proper alignment), and the related cost of the fixing application. The repair cost savings portion 19 also presents the reduction in machine failures annually. As can be seen in Fig. 3, these

various factors lead to an annual repair cost savings of \$14,906. The annual repair costs savings calculation is based on the reduction in annual machine failures (11.6) and the related cost of the fixing application (\$1,285). Stated differently, the annual repair costs savings calculation is as follows: $(30 \cdot 1285) - (30 \cdot 1285 / 1.63) = \$14,906$.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, at lines 3-14, with the following amended paragraph:

The energy cost savings section 21 of the interface 18 shown in Fig. 3 sets forth some input information or data involving the machine usage per unit of time (average hourage of machine usage per year), the motor voltage average, the machine amperage, the reduction in amperage draw (due to precision alignment which often is approximately ~~11.5%~~ 11.5% of the machine amperage), the motor power factor, the effect of a reduction caused by using a specific product (saved kW = (volts x amps saved x power factor x 1.732)/1000), and the energy cost. Using this formula leads to an estimated annual energy cost savings of \$184,250 in the illustrated example and this estimated annual energy cost savings is presented in the energy costs savings portion 21 of the interface 18. In the total economic improvement or advantage portion 22 of the interface 18 illustrated in Fig. 3, the sum of the repair cost savings, the increased productivity earnings, and the energy cost savings is added together to produce a total economic improvement or savings of \$224,156.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, at lines 3-10, with the following amended paragraph:

With the interface shown in Fig. 4, the user is provided with information regarding machine life and how vibration affects the machine life. To determine how vibration affects the machine life, the user selects the appropriate machine class and selects one of the appropriate entries on the left below the machine class. In the illustrated embodiment, the user has selected "small class" and "Satisfactory to Low Green", thus indicating an increased machine life of ~~1,63~~ 1.63. The user is supported by the information in the velocity range limits and machine classes section 23 of the interface 24.